WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 DECEMBER 1986

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

LOG CABIN WILL BE DEDICATED DECEMBER 7

Dedication of the 1837 log house at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard, at 2 p.m. Sunday, December 7, brings to fruition a long term effort to restore it so local school children can have a taste of pioneer living.

When WCHS was unable to accept it in 1980, former WCHS president, the late Leigh Anderson, on his own, arranged to have it moved to Cobblestone Farm from Augusta township.

It was built by Joseph Harris, great-grandfather of the late Doctors Bradley and Scott Harris of Ypsilanti. It was donated by then owner Bert Smith of Tecumseh and family.

In October 1984 WCHS voted to donate $2,500 to help restore the cabin owned by the City of Ann Arbor. With that and other funds the project was completed.

WCHS HOSTS RECEPTION

WCHS will host a reception immediately following the Frost-bitten Convention program Monday, December 15, at Bentley Historical Library next door to the President Ford Library where the program will be held.

A committee composed of Pauline Walters, Marguerite Harms, Elaine Ference and Marilou Warner is in charge of refreshments.

WILSON TALKS TO DAR

President Galen Wilson recently addressed the Sarah Caswell Angell Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution about WCHS's need for a home. The speaker's honorarium has been donated to the museum fund.

1,827 POINTS NOW SAVED FOR SCREEN

WCHS has 33 percent of the Knapp's restaurant points needed to obtain a movie and slide screen thanks to a number of kind members and friends. The goal is 5,450 points. WCHS now has 1,827.

All you have to do, if you eat at Knapp's, is ask for your points when you pay your bill. Save the yellow point slips and bring or send them to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You or your friends can get points at any Knapp's.

ANN ARBOR 'FROST-BITTEN CONVENTION' PAVED WAY FOR STATEHOOD; TO BE COMMEMORATED DECEMBER 15

The "Frost-bitten Convention," held in Ann Arbor, December 14-15, 1836, is the topic of a Sesquicentennial celebration at 2:30 p.m. Monday, December 15, 1986. The Gerald R. Ford Library on U of M's North Campus is hosting the event, which will also serve as the WCHS December meeting.

Peter Fletcher is to be the master of ceremonies. Former Governor John B. Swainson will introduce descendants of the original delegates, who will be acting in their ancestors' places as delegates to this convention.

Dr. Robert Warner, Dean of U of M's Information Sciences School, will present the main address on the historical background and significance of the 1836 convention. Music will be provided by Oriani, a chamber ensemble specializing in period music, including what was accepted as the national anthem in 1836, "Hail Columbia."

The Resolutions produced by the Frost-bitten Convention will be read, and the delegates again polled for their votes. (Will today's delegates vote for or against statehood?) The original convention was a technically illegal assembly, but its bid for statehood was accepted in Washington.

The chain of events leading to it began as early as 1832, when Michigan's population had exceeded the minimum necessary to apply for statehood. Whig politicians in Michigan waited patiently for Congress to pass an enabling act putting in motion the steps to statehood.

By 1834, no such legislation had happened, and the Democratic Governor Stevens T. Mason took a census which showed the population of Michigan to be 84,000, well in excess of the figure required by federal law.

Accordingly, Mason called a constitutional convention which wrote a document ratified by Michiganders on November 2, 1835. In effect, then, Michigan became a state with a governor and a legislature, but was of course not yet admitted to the Union.

Michigan's status as a territory or state became an important issue in 1836 with the admission of Arkansas, a slave state. In accordance with the Compromise of 1820, a free state had to be admitted to keep the balance of votes in the Senate even. Michigan was the logical choice for the next free state.

Congress made a proposal addressed "To the people of Michigan," an important point as will be seen. Delegates were elected to a convention to consider Congress's offer, and these forty-nine men met in Ann Arbor in September, 1836.

The hope was still alive that Michigan could include the Toledo Strip, and the mouth of the Maumee River, in its boundaries, and the federal proposal granted the land in question to Ohio. So the convention turned down the offer by a vote of 28 to 21.

The Democrats, who had favored statehood on any terms, pressured Governor Mason to call another convention, which he felt he could not do. But citing Congress's proposal as addressed to "the people of Michigan," he reasoned that those sovereign people could certainly call another convention to countermand the conclusions of the first.

In 18 of the then 27 Michigan counties, there were elections for delegates to this new convention, and these delegates met in Ann Arbor in a snowy December week. They passed the Congressional offer, and sent a notice of acceptance to President Jackson.

The President passed the letter to Congress, which debated it for a time before accepting Michigan into the Union. The bill authorizing statehood was signed by Jackson on January 26, 1837.

CHELSEA OFFICERS

Katy Chapman will again head the Chelsea Historical Society for 1987 with Hazel Dittmar as vice-president; Jean Storey, secretary; and Glen Wiseman, treasurer.

Harold Jones and Marge Hepburn will continue on the board with one more person to be appointed. Margaret Graham is scrapbook chairman. Mrs. Hepburn represents the society on the new Depot Association.

UNLIKELY BUT TRUE:

1789 TRADING POST SURVIVES TO THIS DAY

The survival of the bullet-scarred 1789 Navarre-Anderson trading post in Monroe is an unlikely believe-it-or-not story worthy of Ripley.

Matt Switlick, director of the Monroe County Historical Museum, who did the research that traced the wooden building back almost two hundred years, presented a slide show about its history and restoration at the October 23 WCHS meeting.

The only older existing building in Michigan is the 1780 stone officer's quarters on Mackinac Island.

The building came to Switlick's attention in 1970, a few weeks after the young Army veteran took his job in Monroe. He was buying a piece of glass for an exhibit when the glass company owner asked if he'd like a log house.

"I said, 'No. the historical society had already moved a Germanic style log cabin to the county fairgrounds in the 1960s and one was probably enough.'

"The merchant said he'd just bought this building which stood in front of a commercial property. Someone at the bank told him it was a very old building rumored to be an old trading post. He pried off a clapboard and sure enough there were some logs."

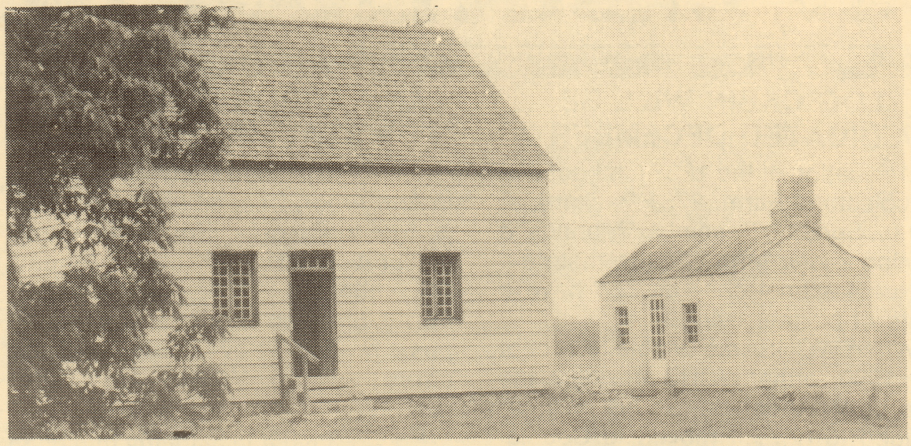
Switlick advised the owner to keep it rented and let him know before he tore it down. A few years later the plumbing went bad and the renters moved out. "We then had to start some serious research."

"We quickly found that, indeed, a building like this had been known around the turn of the century as the old historic trading post."

Birdseye maps including the very accurate 1866 one showed a building that appeared to be the same one which stood on Front Street in 1866.

"By tracking back through land ownership records we found that the building had belonged to 'Heutreau' Navarre. 'Heutreau' or 'Eutreau' was an Indian nickname. Born in 1759 he was Francois Marie, the second son of Robert Navarre, the first Navarre in North America. Robert had come to Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit) about 1728.

"Heutreau and an older brother, Robert, were given land at the River Raisin in 1781. It appears that with one slight exception, this was the first Indian land transaction in Monroe County.



Courtesy Monroe County Historical Commission

NAVARRE-ANDERSON TRADING POST

Clapboards both hide and protect the French-style log construction. The 1789 building (left) is the second oldest in the state. Separate kitchen building dates from about 1810.

"We also find that a lot of those early deeds don't mean much because they seem to have been created after the French thought the land might change nationalities and they went out and found an Indian who would oblige them and write a deed for land they were already occupying.

"There is no evidence in this case that Heutreau was involved in that. We know through Navarre family correspondence in various Michigan repositories that Heutreau had crops growing at the River Raisin around 1790.

"We found in later land testimony Heutreau said, in a sworn statement, he had built his house on the River Raisin in 1789. But you have to take even sworn statements with a little grain of salt.

"Although he built that structure, he was not living in it on an annual basis because local parish records to not pick him up until 1794. Subsequently, we found he kept his residence in Detroit until his mother died in 1797.

"Probably the best known member of Heutreau's family is one of his older sons, Peter, who is generally credited with being the first settler in the Toledo area. (He showed an 1860 photo of Peter.)"

Peter, a scout in the War of 1812, lived in the house we are dealing with, Switlick noted.

"Heutreau shows up on our tax records in 1802 as owning a house, but on these tax rolls a house meant a trading or mercantile house because there were something like 13 houses, three mills and two distilleries. We know that Heutreau had a fairly small operation. He was not one of the larger traders.

"Shortly after the tax roll was published, Heutreau sold the land to Colonel John Anderson, one of the more colorful figures in early Michigan territorial history.

"Born in Scotland in 1771, Anderson migrated to upper New York. His father was killed and the family taken prisoner in Canada, where he grew up.

"He seems to have been affected negatively by this early trauma because he never had really great rapport with Indians, although he had to make his living dealing with them.

"He came to the Maumee region in 1793. He apparently had quite a few dealings with (General) Anthony Wayne."

Anderson wrote a "really fascinating" autobiography while he was in jail in Washington, D.C. in 1817 for attempting to bribe a congressman. He spent almost all his time from 1815 into the 1820s lobbying for war claims.

Anderson related that in the mid-1790s he was at one of the British posts when Anthony Wayne was maneuvering the British out of the area.

Anderson was inside the fort with the British who had a cannon loaded with grape shot aimed right down the road. Wayne marched right up the road on

his horse and fearlessly ordered the British to pull out.

"The sergeant looked at the corporal who had a glowing linstock with which to fire the cannon. They looked at each other but nobody could decide whether to blow away Anthony Wayne or back off. They backed off."

"Anderson apparently became interested in the River Raisin area about 1802. He comments in his autobiography that he came up to the River Raisin and found a handsome plantation which he purchased. It was this property.

"One of our early research problems was to account for this building's survival because Anderson went to Congress to try to get money for all his buildings that were burned (during the bloody River Raisin massacre in the War of 1812).

"When Hull surrendered Detroit, Anderson was a ranking militia officer at the River Raisin. I think there were five companies of militia headquartered at the River Raisin so it was a fairly important substation to Detroit. Hull surrendered the River Raisin garrison too."

"In his autobiography, Anderson described how he prepared the stockade for combat. Trees were cut and a house belonging to Dr. Dazet was leveled.

"After the surrender was confirmed, Anderson and many of the militia headed for Ohio to join American forces rather than be paroled.

"Mrs. Anderson stayed behind. The Indians, of course, were cruising the region. A famous confrontation occurred between Elizabeth Knaggs Anderson and the Indians."

The story goes that she dumped the whiskey on the cellar floor. The Indians got into the cellar, lapped it up, came up stairs and demanded the family money chest.

"She sat on the money chest, opened her blouse and dared the Indians to strike a woman. It seems pretty nervy. It apparently worked but I don't know if it was all that rational a thing for her to do. She spoke three Indian languages and probably knew the Indians better than her husband did.

"She left right after that and then we know the Anderson house of that date was burned by Indians. However, we found that Anderson had moved from this existing building of Navarre's because it was too small for his larger operation.

"He had rented, then sold it to Dr. Joseph Dazet, the first physician there. Born in France, Dazet arrived at the River Raisin in 1804 and immediately married a French lady fresh from France. He might have been running from Napoleon or the Revolution."

"Dr. Dazet resided in the building until the War of 1812. It is apparent from evidence we found in the building that it sustained damage and was undoubtedly abandoned, but unlike all other buildings associated with Anderson, it was not burned because during the war years it belonged to Dr. Dazet. Immediately after the war Dr. Dazet sold it back to Anderson."

BULLETS STILL SCAR 1789 TRADING POST

Switlick found where about 24 round bullets had been fired into what was originally the west wall.

"We can't really account for the bullets. They don't fit any known scenario during the War of 1812."

The caliber of the bullet holes varies from 54-60, the common caliber range of Indian trade muskets. There was only one in the 75 caliber range that could have come from a British musket.

"The shooting was probably done at very close range, 20 feet or so. Some people have said maybe it was target practice but the fact that its about chest high and strung out along the wall probably leads us to a little grimmer conclusion.

A Monroe area collector has many of Dr. Dazet's journals. "We have found references in the journals which correlate data we found in the building."

Switlick showed a circa 1869 photograph which showed the first addition on the back of the trading post. "We could scale out the roof area of the addition. It corresponds nicely to a load of shingles recorded as having been acquired in 1809 by Dazet."

An 1876 map shows the building right on what at that time was called Elm Avenue (previously Water Street).

The trading post was identified as a landmark as early as 1817 when the first (United States) survey was made on the north side of the river.

The surveyors struck a line "from the southeast corner of Colonel Anderson's old storehouse so many degrees. The whole north side of Monroe was squared off from this building. The survey established a right of way at the west building line."

"In the 1890s when streetcars started coming through the street had to be widened and the building was moved 300 feet and renovated in late Victorian style. It was owned by the Ilgenfritz family from about 1847 to about 1949. (They operated a large plant nursery in Monroe for many years.)"

Old and recent pictures of the building showed differences in windows and other anomalies that had to be explained.

"We had the welcome opportunity to be able to tear this building apart selectively to investigate it. We found an 1890s addition made after the move.

"We found a real textbook situation in which you had archeological layering of the inside walls — 1890s plaster, second remodeling lath, first remodeling plaster when converted from a warehouse in 1797 and early hand-split lath.

"A 1904 article talked about bullet holes in the building and said that bullets found in the walls 'have been carefully put away'."

Switlick found where about 24 round bullets had been fired into what was originally a westward facing wall. Those chiseled out as souvenirs in the 1890s are lost "but they didn't get them all. We didn't extract any deliberately but I think we recovered two in areas where we had to remove the daubing."

"We also found lead shot paths with bird shot which had apparently penetrated the clapboard that was on the building certainly by 1812, perhaps earlier, and then stuck half-in, half-out of log surfaces.

"After this and a lot more research we determined we did have on our hands, at a time when we could ill afford it, a very rare treasure in terms of Michigan history and architecture."

They had to get the building off the original site and store it. "However, I think, for the project its very fortunate that by 1971 we had several other major historical projects moving which demanded our attention."

"The fact it took nearly a decade to do this building allowed us to learn a lot more about it. Had we tried to do it in a year or 18 months, I know we would have destroyed inadvertently a lot of evidence that was subsequently found."

They got the advice of Ann Arbor Architect Dick Frank, then of Johnson, Johnson and Roy, about the move. A crew of volunteers peeled off the roof where they found original rafters reinforced with newer ones, probably from

the 1890s.

A Toledo firm trucked it out to the new site on the river about three miles out of town where they simply tried to protect it from the weather for about five years.

During that period they started to peel down the inside slowly. Instead of finding an early French fireplace behind the Victorian one, they found nice smooth plaster. Later they found char marks on the floor where cast iron stoves had stood. The French were using stoves in Michigan as early as the 1720s they learned.

An historic buildings inventory in Monroe county turned up around 50 log houses. They salvaged some materials from some of them for replacements.

Meanwhile, the original site became available for a limited archeological study one weekend. The dig answered questions about the foundation.

They located a cellar wall and grade level entrance previously spotted in a photo and a few artifacts. They think the cellar ran across only the back third of the building over an old stream bed that would have been easier digging.

After the dig they knew how deep the cellar was etc. and the architect sketched a plan. By 1975 they were ready to start the move to the final location.

"We replaced the rotted sill logs before we could winch it over the new foundation. When we took the rotted logs down we found a large accumulation of very small debris which had been swept across the floor and piled up in a joint where log walls and floor met."

They bagged up the debris for study. Later that winter they went through about a bushel-and-a-half of junk. "We found all kinds of really neat stuff. Of course we found the key to the front door right by the front door. Some thing don't change."

"We found a roll of linen which had been burned on one end and neatly stitched up. We thought, boy, that's going to be a treasure. We took about a half day unrolling it. We didn't find a thing."

He speculated from his experience with carving where you have to fit two parts together that it may have been a torch used to smoke an area to find out where the high points are before jamming it together.

"It was tucked up in a joint in such a way that there was no way physically to get it up there after the first log and sill log were met and tenoned together so it had to have been there from 1789 on."

They also found Indian trade beads, drop shot, copper headed straight (sewing) pins, a large amount of grain material suggesting it had been used as a grainery before converted to a residence in 1797, and lots of other items.

SECRET OF 200 YEAR SURVIVAL: CLAPBOARDS

During the restoration of the 1789 Navarre-Anderson trading post building the logs were exposed for a couple of years.

"Probably the greatest problem we had with some local folk," Matt Switlick said, "was that they got used to seeing the logs exposed. That really turns people on."

"What they don't realize is that this kind of a building has an average life expectancy if its not boarded up of about 20-25 years (even with chemical preservatives). The only reason it survived 200 years is that it had been clapboarded over for 95 percent of its life span."

The drop shot found embedded in the side of the building was not manufactured, he noted. Apparently the technique used was to melt lead, pour it out on a flat stone, let it cool into a sheet about one eighth inch thick, then take a knife and chop it as if you were dicing vegetables.

That produces cubical particles. That technique is commonly associated with Indian finds of archeology, he said.

"Well along in the restoration we discovered some very important things I think we would have missed in the beginning. We found original shutter tie backs, the same width as the windows off to each side.

"The old pieces were all in extremely fragile condition. The problem was to try to use them or reproduce them. We decided we would make every effort to use every piece of original fabric that we could.

"Following a system developed by Canadian engineers, we mortised out the length of each of those rafters and embedded a sandwich of plywood and steel and a matrix of fiberglass or epoxies. They were rebuilt to about 175 percent of their original strength.

"It's been over ten years and there is no sign of failure yet although we do have to watch this sort of thing. Epoxies have only been around a couple of decades. That kind of technology has to be at least monitored.

"The building had bowed on the ends. We put a cable through it and were able to pull it in about eighteen inches on a side.

"Our philosophy was to patch everything back together in its original location. Where necessary they took small pieces of another log cabin and milled them to fit."

The roof went up in summer 1976 with freshly cut extra wide poplar roof boards and hand split shakes.

"Probably the greatest problem we had with some local folks was that they were used to seeing it for about two years with the logs exposed. That really turns people on.

"What they don't realize though is that this kind of a building has an average life expectancy if its not boarded up of about 20-25 years (even with chemical preservatives). The only reason it survived is that it had been clapboarded over for 95 percent of its life span."

They mapped and photographed the bullet holes and pieces of lead shot in the wall so they can be studied before re-clapboarding it. They glazed an area where bullet holes and architectural assembly of the building can be seen through a clear covering.

"We were able to make what I feel is a very accurate restoration. This is how the building probably looked in the summer of 1798 when Heutreau Navarre was preparing it for a residence.

"We had worked with these logs several years before we realized every log was Roman numeraled. We are still in process of developing interior furnishings. A couple of rooms are furnished.

"In our research we discovered that the common description of buildings in the neighborhood included a separate kitchen so we brought in another little building, 10 by 20 feet which had an original cooking fireplace.

"Unfortunately we had to remove it to move the building but we had the original crane and fireplace cooking gear. The building and gear which had remained in the family was donated. The building of a slightly different architectural style dates from about 1810."

They are buying more adjacent land and plan to build a replica of a post-on- sill French barn to give a feeling of a French farm although inside it will look like a steel pole building and be used for badly needed storage.

Among items needing storage are a

circa 1830s Conestoga wagon and some original 60-inch wheels to build a French ox cart.

The Navarre-Anderson trading post is open summer weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They also have lantern tours the second weekend of October with about 15 re-enacters costumed and doing first person roles with written scripts.

For example, "Heutreau Navarre" comes out of the house speaking French to the Yankee visitors who are introduced as looking for new land along the River Raisin. They are taken into the candle lit building where family members are spinning, bickering, etc., to the separate kitchen and along the river. Along the way the guide tells ghostly French legends about werewolves and such.

Lantern tours are by reservation only and cost $2 per person. That mainly covers the cost of candles, he said. They burn 50 a night. They hope to set up a hunter's camp by the river for future tours.

NTHS OFFICERS NAMED

Tom O'Brien and Rusty Towers (Mrs. Stanley) will again serve as co-presidents of Northfield Township Historical Society. Cecil Warner is vice-president and Rosemary Donner, secretary.

Margaret Gyde, Hulda Stevenson and Hollis Kapp are newly named to the board which also includes Glenna Santure, Beverly Bater and Warner.

ELAINE FERENCE NEW WCHS VICE-PRESIDENT

Elaine Ference of Saline has been appointed vice-president of the Washtenaw County Historical Society. Until recently a registered nurse employed at the Ann Arbor Veteran's Administration Hospital, she is now starting a new career in real estate. She succeeds Esther Warzynski who resigned.

'WHAT IS IT?' GAME AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it?" game for children to schools.

It is available for classes, subject to time and volunteer availability. For information call Patricia Austin, 663-5281.

NEW BOOK BY DETROIT FREE PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER CELEBRATES LIFE IN SMALL TOWN MICHIGAN

Life in small town Michigan from Afton to Yalmer is celebrated in a new book, *Main Street: A Portrait of Small Town Michigan* by *Detroit Free Press* photographer Manny Crisostomo.

The November WCHS audience was first to preview Crisostomo's slide tape show of small town people and scenes which is to be shown around the state in connection with sales of his book. He had just finished putting the show together in the wee hours that morning.

What is his fascination with the state's small towns and byways?

He writes in the book's preface that when he was growing up on on Guam his "schoolbooks were full of pictures of cornfields, snow scenes, farmers and main streets (of the Midwest) . . . a new and magical world to me."

He "wanted to meet the people who are the heart of small-town America." And meet them he did.

In making the photo collection on which the book, show and a newspaper series was based he traveled more than 60,000 miles of Michigan roads, visited more than 100 Michigan towns and took more than 20,000 pictures.

A memorable photo shows a parade-goer intently waiting for the Vermontville Maple Syrup parade under a street sign post that shows East Main crossing South Main.

In another picture no road is visible, only a stop sign sticking up in overgrown grass south of Sears. In another a flock of wild turkeys walk down Hulbert's Main Street.

But the majority of pictures are of people and their activities ranging widely over the state except for highly populated areas. The only Washtenaw County picture in the book is from Saline. There is one from Tipton and four from Tecumseh in southeast Michigan.

But there are parades, auctions, beauty contests, the Martin Diner, Germfask volunteer fire fighters, 22 of the 35 residents of Eagle River in a group portrait in front of the Keweenaw County Courthouse.

There are the two students in the one-room school on Bois Blanc Island near Mackinac Island, a water witcher or dowser near Fairview, a fiddling family from Smyrna posed in front of the covered White's Bridge.

There are pictures of Indian children, Amish and the Black community of Idlewild. There are lots of plain ordinary people at work and at ease.

The book is a joint sesquicentennial publication of the Historical Society of Michigan and the *Detroit Free Press.*

It is a testament to the vitality and values of small towns. The black-and-white photography is reminiscent of earlier decades and the old *Life* magazine.

KEMPF HOUSE TO BE MINI-MEADOWBROOK

Five local florists will help turn Kempf House Center for Local History, 312 South Division, into a mini-Meadowbrook Christmas exhibit. Open house is scheduled 1-4 p.m. weekends December 6-7 and 13-14 with caroling 7 p.m. Friday the fifth.

GRANT AIDS PRODUCTION OF TOLEDO WAR PLAY

A Michigan sesquicentennial play, "Aliens and Scoundrels," by local playwright Ellen M. Prosser, about the Toledo War and statehood struggle is nearing completion and production thanks to a $9,080 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts funneled through WCHS.

The WCHS Board agreed to assist Ms. Prosser and President Galen Wilson prepared the grant application. More details later.

SCHLENKER'S, HOSPITAL GIVEN CERTIFICATES

President Galen Wilson presented WCHS anniversary certificates this fall to Schlenker's Hardware which has been in business for 100 years and to Catherine McAuley Health Center (St. Joseph Mercy Hospital) which celebrated 75 years of service.

Schlenker's was started in July 1886 in Ann Arbor by Christian Schlenker, grandfather of present owner, Martin E. who now operates it with his son, Gerry. The present sprawling health center between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti started in a house in Ann Arbor in 1911.

Similar hand lettered certificates, framed if desired, are available free of charge to organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries. For more information call 663-8826.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE
CAROLS, COOKIES, CALENDARS, COFFEE HOUSE, MORE

Chelsea Historical Society: Meets 7:30 p.m. second Monday in Crippen Building at Chelsea Methodist Home. No meeting in December.

Dexter Society: The village will be lighted all over town with luminaries on Christmas eve. The project is sponsored by the society.

The museum, 3443 Inverness, open 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday will close for the season December 20. Annual crafts fair mid-March.

Manchester Society: Members will meet for a carol sing and cookie exchange at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Blossom at 7:30 p.m. December 15. President Howard Parr and other officers have been re-elected.

Normally meet 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. Former Governor John Swainson, an honorary chairman of the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission and Manchester area resident, will speak about Michigan history at the January meeting.

Society calendars featuring Manchester area landmarks drawn by Bill Shurtliff are available for $3 plus mailing by calling 428-9233.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday, Hack House, 775 County Street, except December when members only meet for dinner.

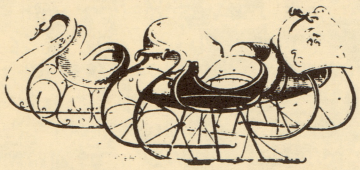
Wall papering and painting the kitchen is the Society's latest project in restoring the 1886 farm house.

MARCH PROGRAM SET

Roy Kiplinger, U-M senior in history from Northville, will talk about the Toledo War and Michigan statehood at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at Clements Library. This is the next WCHS meeting as none are planned in January and February.

Northfield Society: A second, slightly revised edition of *Looking Back; The History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area* is expected to be off the press in January. The first printing of 500 copies was sold out. For information about books call Beverly Bater at 449-2880 (days).

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday of month at Township Hall, South State and Ellsworth Roads.



Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday at former Salem Congregational Church on Dickerson Street except Christmas party at a member's home December 18.

January program on Lapham's Corners, February's on Michigan railroad history and March's, annual banquet and program on state sesquicentennial.

The former 100-year-old church building this fall was turned into a coffee house featuring chamber and folk music concerts by its new owners, Donna and Paul McInich. Called "The Raven," it is a re-birth of a coffee house in Southfield in the 1960-70s.

The Salem post office has also been moved into the church building from the store.

Ypsilanti Society: Christmas open house 2-5 p.m. Sunday, December 14 at the museum, 220 North Huron. The museum, decorated in Victorian fashion, will also be open 7-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday the 18th and 19th, free of charge.

SHOOK HIM OUT

The first few trips made by the Murphys in their new Ford were spoiled for Mr. Murphy by the actions of his wife. She sat behind him and offered advice and information, generally accompanied by a poke in the back.

Mr. Murphy became very tired of "Blow your horn, Paddy," and "Look out for the hearse behind us," and reprimanded Mrs. Murphy severely.

On the occasion of Father O'Malley's first ride with them he took particular pains to make his meaning clear to this wife, and said he would sell the car if he heard a peep from her.

So with little Jimmy beside him in the front seat and Father O'Malley and Mrs. Murphy in the rear, the party sallied forth to the country.

After a mile or two of rough roads without a word or a poke from his wife, Murphy had commenced to feel at ease when the good lady leaned over the back of his seat.

"I don't want to affind you, Paddy," she said, "but I thought ye might like to know his Riverence is no longer wid us!"

From *Ford Smiles, All The Best Current Jokes About A Rattling Good Car* gathered by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesbury Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

MRS. AUSTIN CHAIRS HISTORIC COMMISSION

Patricia Austin, WCHS past-president, has been elected chairman of the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission. Susan Wineberg is vice-president and Rosemarion Blake, secretary.

Other members are George Dodd, David Evans, Myra Jones, Richard Macias and J. Allen Meiselbach.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

2:30 P.M. MONDAY DECEMBER 15, 1986

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